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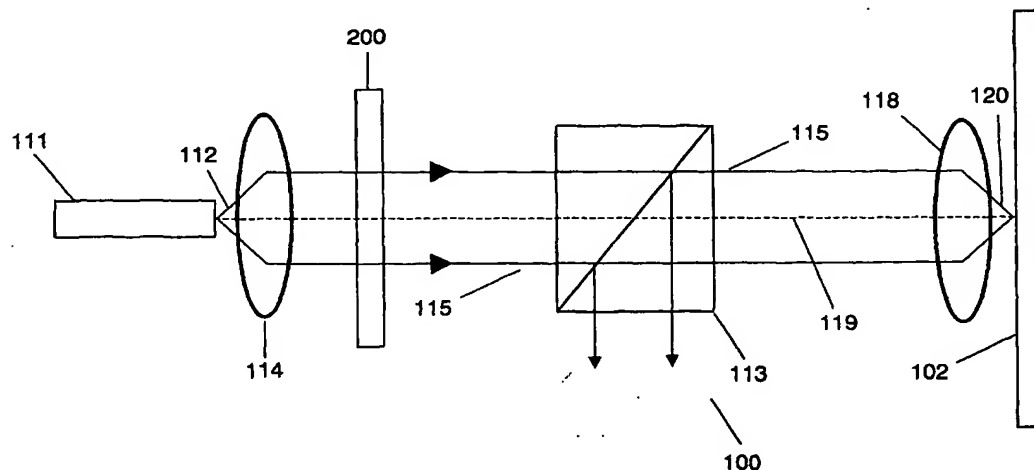
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(54) Title: SCANNING DEVICE INCLUDING AN OPTICAL FILTER



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device (1; 100) for scanning an information layer (4) of an optical record carrier (2; 102). The device comprises a radiation source (11; 111) for generating a radiation beam (12, 15, 20; 112, 115, 120), an objective system (18; 118) for converging the radiation beam on the information layer (4), and an optical filter (200) for regulating the intensity profile of the radiation beam. The filter has an optical axis (119) and comprises a saturable absorber (206) having an absorption that saturates at a threshold incident radiation intensity. For incident radiation beams of intensity less than the threshold, the absorption of the absorber decreases with distance away from the axis.

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